S1527-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1991 APRIL 1991

Jobs Continue to Decline
16,600 Fewer Jobs in the Area Than Last February

Labor Force

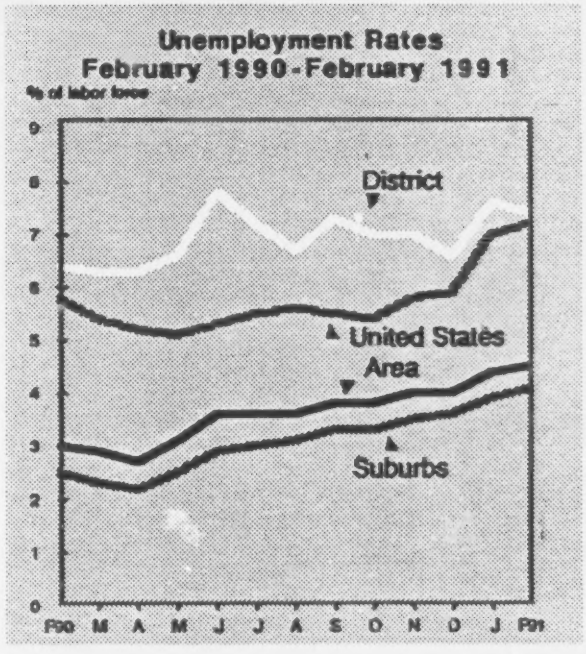
In February, unemployment rates in the Washington Area and its suburbs increased while the rate in the District decreased. The local January-to-February changes were rather marginal in size. Both the Area and the Suburban unemployment rates each increased 0.1 percentage point. For the Area, the rate increased from 4.4 percent to 4.5 percent and for the suburbs from 4.0 percent to 4.1 percent. The District's rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to register 7.4 percent of the labor force.

However, the over-the-year changes (February 1990 to February 1991) in the local jobless rates were significant. The rates were up 1.8 percent in the suburbs, 1.7 percent in the Area and 1.0 percent in the District. These yearly changes are clear statistical signs of declines in local business activities during the past year.

Unemployment among all workers in the United States in February was 7.2 percent when unadjusted for seasonal changes. This is only two-tenths of a percentage point lower than in the District. However, February marked the thirteenth consecutive month that the District's rate has exceeded that for the nation.

The District

In the District, all three measures of the labor force declined between January and February. Residents on payrolls fell by 3,400 and those on the unemployment rolls declined by 1,100. As a result of declines in both employment and unemployment, the labor force dropped by 4,400. These relatively small changes produced the monthly decline in the rate. Historically, February represents a month in which changes in direction of the unemployment rate tend to be mixed. Over the past 20 years, the District's rate has increased 10 times in February and decreased 10 times.



As has been the case for the past 7 or 8 months, the

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Sharon Pratt Dixon
Mayor

Department of Employment Services
Maria Borrero
Acting Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

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AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1991 APRIL 1991

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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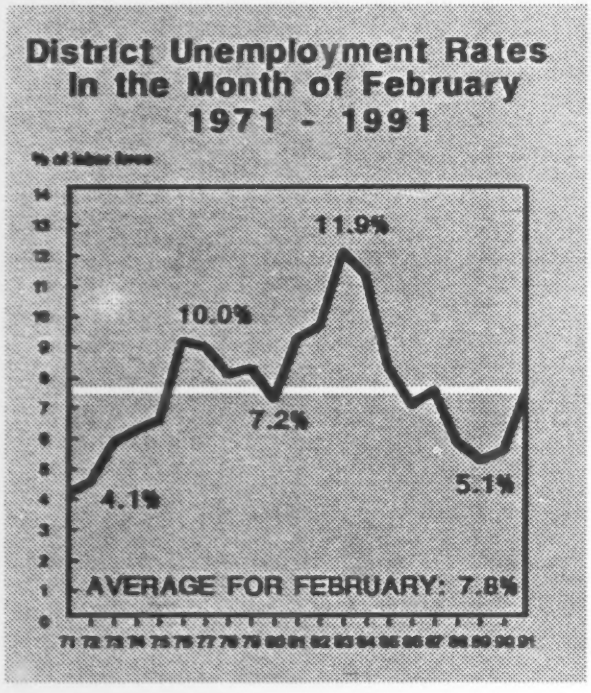
over-the-year measurements are the numbers that most clearly demonstrate the impact of the local business downturn. For example, the number of working District residents has fallen over the year by 20,000 workers, a decline of 7.0 percent. The level of unemployment has risen by only 1,600 jobless residents, (about 8.0 percent). Thus, in the District, most of the decline in the level of employment has resulted in a drop in the size of the labor force of 18,200 people (6.0 percent). Many District residents seem to have responded to the downturn by dropping out of active participation in the job market.



The Suburbs & Area

In the suburbs, the February pattern was slightly different from the pattern in the District. There was a small loss in suburban employment of about 7,400 from a January employment base of 2,078,000 employed residents. The loss of employment was offset by a 5,400-person decline in the labor force, and, unlike in the District, an increase of 2,100 in unemployment. As a result, the suburban rate was up a tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent of the labor force.

Again the significant numbers are the over-the-year comparisons. In the suburbs in February, there were 57,600 fewer employed suburbanites, a decrease of over 3 percent. About 4 of every 10 persons losing jobs left the labor force, while 6 joined the unemployment rolls. **As a result, the suburban jobless register now contains 76,800 unemployed workers, up a significant 77 percent from a year earlier.**

February's labor market activities pushed the Area's unemployment rate up to 4.5 percent. The last time the Area's unemployment rate was this high was seven years ago in February 1984, when the rate was also 4.5 percent. Over the past year (February 1990 to February 1991) the labor force in the Washington Area declined by nearly 2.0 percent. **Sixty percent of the decline in the Area's labor supply occurred among suburbanites. Suburbanites accounted for 74 percent of the 77,600 Area residents losing jobs and for 95 percent of all the 35,000 increase in Washington Area unemployment.** Thus, the downturn in this business cycle has a very large suburban component.

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Feb.a/ 1991	Jan.b/ 1991	Feb.b/ 1990
1. Manassas City	8.3	6.3	2.7
2. Calvert County	8.2	8.2	3.8
3. Frederick County	8.1	8.5	4.4
4. District of Columbia	**7.4**	**7.6**	**6.4**
5. Stafford County	6.9	6.8	3.6
6. Charles County	5.1	5.1	2.7
7. Prince William Cty.	4.8	4.6	2.4
8. Prince Georges Cty.	4.7	4.7	3.1
9. Alexandria City	4.5	4.1	2.6
10. Manassas Park City	3.9	4.6	2.4
11. Loudoun County	3.8	3.2	1.8
12. Arlington County	3.4	3.1	2.1
13. Montgomery County	3.3	3.3	2.2
14. Fairfax County	3.0	2.7	1.8
15. Falls Church City	2.9	2.3	1.4
16. Fairfax City	2.4	2.3	1.9

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

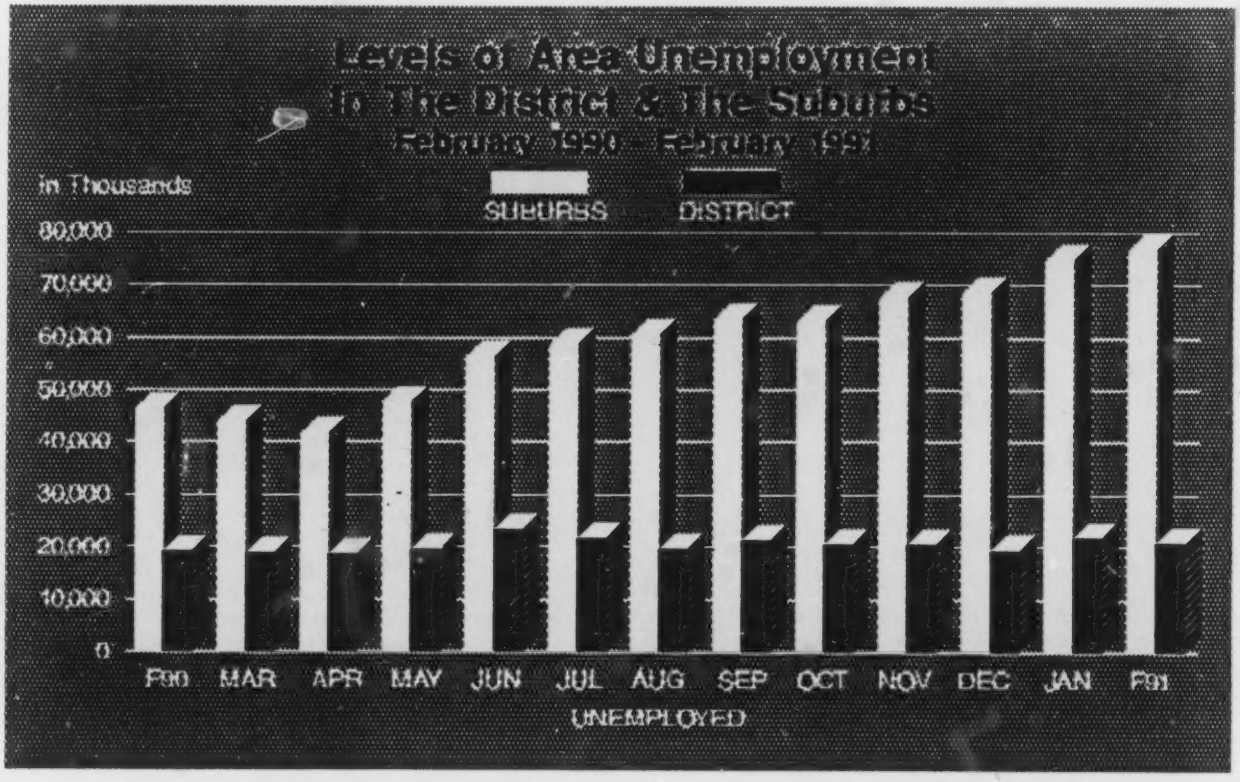
SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
February 1991[a/]

	Feb.[b/] 1991	Jan.[c/] 1991	Feb.[d/] 1990	Jan.[d/] 1990	Net Change From Jan. 1991	Net Change From Feb. 1990
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	283,200	287,600	301,400	303,200	-4,400	-18,200
Total Employed	262,300	265,700	282,300	286,300	-3,400	-20,000
Total Unemployed	20,800	21,900	19,200	17,000	-1,100	1,600
Unemployment Rate[e/]	7.4	7.6	6.4	5.6	-0.2	1.0
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,881,600	1,887,000	1,906,000	1,900,900	-5,400	-24,400
Total Employed	1,804,900	1,812,300	1,862,500	1,857,000	-7,400	-57,600
Total Unemployed	76,800	74,700	43,400	43,800	2,100	33,400
Unemployment Rate[e/]	4.1	4.0	2.3	2.3	0.1	1.8
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,164,800	2,174,600	2,207,400	2,204,100	-9,800	-42,600
Total Employed	2,067,200	2,078,000	2,144,800	2,143,300	-10,800	-77,600
Total Unemployed	97,600	96,600	62,600	60,800	1,000	35,000
Unemployment Rate[e/]	4.5	4.4	2.8	2.8	0.1	1.7

a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 9,874 in February 1991, down 4,926 from January and down only 32 from a year ago. In February 1991, 58 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 25 percent of the total workers. This was followed by 22 percent each for clerical and sales service workers. Structural workers accounted for 19 percent of the claimants. The remaining 12 percent was distributed between machine trades, bench work, processing and miscellaneous workers.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.9 weeks for all claimants in February. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 8.5 weeks to 9.7 weeks, while for females the duration rose from 9.6 weeks to 10.0 weeks. A year ago, the duration was 9.5 weeks for males and 9.8 weeks for females.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
February 1991 & February 1990
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		FEBRUARY 1991	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.1	12.7	21.3
Suburbs	86.9	87.3	78.7
		FEBRUARY 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.7	13.2	30.7
Suburbs	86.3	86.8	69.3

Job Growth

The District

The number of jobs in the District increased by 1,300 for a gain of 0.2 percent between January and February. The private sector was responsible for the growth with primarily seasonal gains in Services (2,500 jobs).

The public sector declined by 1,500 jobs with losses in both Federal Government (1,400 jobs) and State and Local Government (100 jobs).

Over the year (February 1990 to February 1991), the number of District jobs decreased 0.1 percent for a loss of 800 jobs. **The private sector decreased at a rate of 0.3 percent for a loss of 1,200 jobs.** Losses were primarily concentrated in Retail Trade (1,700 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,200 jobs) and Construction (500 jobs) while Services, the only job gainer, registered growth of 2,900 jobs.

The public sector gained 400 jobs for an increase of 0.1 percent with growth in State and Local Government (600 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (200 jobs).

The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs decreased by 0.1 percent for a loss of 1,900 jobs between January and February. The private sector was responsible for the decline with primarily seasonal losses in Trade (5,500 jobs) and Construction (2,200 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for 64 percent of the loss in Trade and 91 percent of the loss in Construction.

The public sector increased by 5,200 jobs with growth in State and Local Government (5,300 jobs) partially offset by a slight loss in Federal Government (100 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 74 percent of the increase in State and Local Government while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the loss in Federal Government.

Over the year (February 1990 to February 1991), suburban jobs declined at a rate of 1.0 percent for a loss of 15,800 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 0.5 percent while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 2.5 percent.**

The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.7 percent, accounted for the loss in suburban jobs with growth

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in the service-producing sector (900 jobs) offset by a decline in the goods-producing sector (22,300 jobs). Job losses were primarily concentrated in Construction (19,700 jobs), Trade (2,700 jobs) and Manufacturing (2,500 jobs) while the only job gains occurred in Services (4,100 jobs) and Transportation and Public Utilities (500 jobs). Eighty-two percent of the Construction loss and all of the decline in Trade occurred in the Virginia suburbs while the Maryland suburbs were responsible for 52 percent of the loss in Manufacturing. The Virginia suburbs were responsible for 80 percent of the Services growth while the Maryland suburbs accounted for the growth in Transportation and Public Utilities.

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.8 percent with growth in State and Local Government (9,200 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,600 jobs). Fifty-one percent of the State and Local Government growth was concentrated in the Maryland suburbs while 92 percent of the decline in Federal Government occured in the Virginia suburbs.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area lost 600 jobs between January and February. The private sector accounted for the loss with primarily seasonal declines in Trade (5,000 jobs) and Construction (2,300 jobs).

The public sector increased by 0.6 percent with a gain in State and Local Government (5,200 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (1,500 jobs).

Over the year (February 1990 to February 1991), the Area declined at a rate of 0.7 percent for a loss of 16,600 jobs. The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.4 percent for a loss of 22,600 jobs, was responsible for the Area job loss. Job losses were concentrated in Construction (20,200 jobs), Trade (4,200 jobs), Manufacturing (2,900 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (2,400 jobs) while job growth primarily occurred in Services (7,000 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.0 percent with gains in State and Local Government (9,800 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,800 jobs).

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
INDUSTRY	Feb.[b/] 1991	Jan.[c/] 1991	Feb.[d/] 1990	Feb.[b/] 1991	Jan.[c/] 1991	Feb.[d/] 1990
TOTAL	**681.5**	**680.2**	**682.3**	**2,199.4**	**2,200.0**	**2,216.0**
Total Private Sector	**405.8**	**403.0**	**407.0**	**1,610.0**	**1,614.3**	**1,632.6**
Total Government	**275.7**	**277.2**	**275.3**	**589.4**	**585.7**	**583.4**
Total Goods Producing	**29.4**	**29.5**	**30.3**	**202.6**	**205.2**	**225.8**
Manufacturing	**15.4**	**15.4**	**15.8**	**85.4**	**85.7**	**88.3**
Total Durables	2.2	2.3	2.3	41.5	41.6	42.9
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9	2.9	3.4
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.5	18.7	17.1
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.1	20.0	22.4
Total Non-Durable	13.2	13.1	13.5	43.9	44.1	45.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.6	4.7	4.6
Printing & Publishing	12.5	12.4	12.8	33.3	33.4	34.8
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	6.0	6.0	6.0
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.2**
Construction	**13.9**	**14.0**	**14.4**	**116.1**	**118.4**	**136.3**
Total Service Producing	**652.1**	**650.7**	**652.0**	**1996.8**	**1994.8**	**1990.2**

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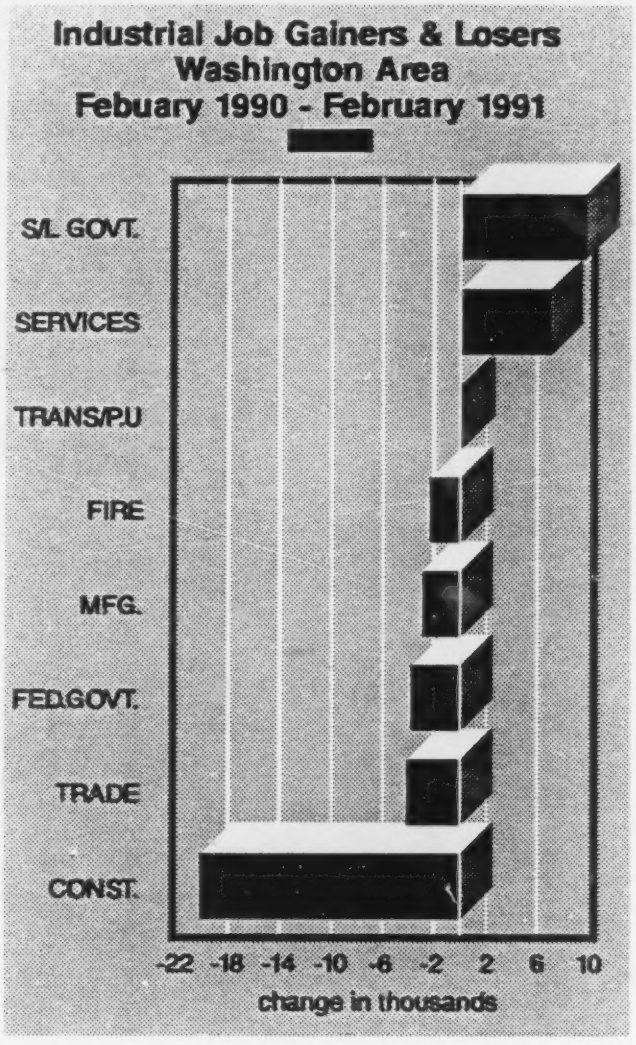
Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Feb.[b/] 1991	Jan.[c/] 1991	Feb.[d/] 1990	Feb.[b/] 1991	Jan.[c/] 1991	Feb.[d/] 1990
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**23.5**	**23.5**	**23.8**	**106.6**	**107.8**	**106.4**
All Transportation	8.9	8.9	9.2	50.5	51.6	50.5
Railroads	4.2	4.2	4.1	5.3	5.3	5.3
Transportation ex. Railroad	4.7	4.7	5.1	45.2	46.3	45.2
Communications & Public Utilities	14.6	14.6	14.6	56.1	56.2	55.9
Trade	**59.6**	**59.3**	**61.3**	**422.2**	**427.2**	**426.4**
Wholesale	8.2	8.3	8.2	78.7	78.6	77.7
Retail	51.4	51.0	53.1	343.5	348.6	348.7
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.7	39.8	38.4
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.1	50.3	49.3
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.9	36.0	37.4
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.5	29.6	28.6
Eating & Drinking Places	27.0	26.5	27.3	112.1	111.4	113.2
All Other Retail	24.4	24.5	25.8	80.2	81.5	81.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**32.9**	**32.8**	**34.1**	**128.5**	**128.5**	**130.9**
Finance	15.4	15.4	16.2	59.3	59.6	60.6
Depository Institutions	8.4	8.4	9.2	39.3	39.7	40.3
Other Finance	7.0	7.0	7.0	20.0	19.9	20.3
Insurance	8.0	8.0	8.0	28.6	28.4	27.7
Real Estate	9.5	9.4	9.9	40.6	40.5	42.6
Services	**260.4**	**257.9**	**257.5**	**750.1**	**745.6**	**743.1**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.1	16.2	16.6	38.0	36.9	36.8
Personal Services	3.4	3.4	3.6	23.1	22.7	23.5
Business Services	38.1	38.0	38.6	179.2	178.7	178.8
Service to Buildings	13.1	13.1	14.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	7.8	7.8	8.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	6.0	5.9	5.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	11.2	11.2	10.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	38.0	37.8	38.1	118.8	118.7	116.3
Legal Services	30.3	30.1	29.8	40.7	40.5	40.1
Educational Services	32.1	31.3	31.7	46.1	45.0	45.1
Social Services	12.9	12.9	12.5	36.9	36.8	34.7
Membership Organizations	34.7	34.6	33.5	62.8	62.5	60.8
Engineering/Management Ser.	43.6	43.5	43.2	144.7	144.6	146.9
All Other Services	10.2	10.1	9.9	59.8	59.2	60.1
Government	**275.7**	**277.2**	**275.3**	**589.4**	**585.7**	**583.4**
Federal Government	218.7	220.1	218.9	358.6	360.1	362.4
State & Local Government	57.0	57.1	56.4	230.8	225.6	221.0
State Government	52.2	52.3	51.6	81.0	79.8	78.7
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	149.8	145.8	142.3
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.


Industrial Job Gainers & Losers
Washington Area
Febuary 1990 - February 1991
S/L GOVT.
SERVICES
TRANS/P.U
FIRE
MFG.
FED.GOVT.
TRADE
CONST.
-22 -18 -14 -10 -6 -2 2 6 10
change in thousands

Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (February 1986 to February 1991), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 3.2 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.0 percent in August 1987 to a net loss of seven-tenths of a percent in February 1991. **This marked the fourth consecutive month that the Washington Area recorded an over-the-year job loss.** This February's measurement was down from a 1.4 increase reported in February of 1990.

For the sixth consecutive month, the suburban economy recorded an over-the-year job loss. The February loss represented a job decline of one percent from a year earlier. This suburban loss was down from the yearly growth of 1.3 percent reported in February 1990. In the District, the number of jobs decreased over the year by one-tenth of a percentage point. The loss of District jobs this year compares to a growth of 1.7 percent reported a year ago.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from a peak gain during the past five years of 101,300 new jobs created between July 1986 and July 1987, to a loss of 16,600 jobs between February 1990 and this past February. Over the past year, 15,800 jobs were lost by the suburban economy, while the District lost 800 jobs.

In February, the U.S. economy for the first month lost a small number of new jobs over the year compared to a slightly larger loss in the Washington Area (a 0.3 percent decline for the U.S. economy vs. the 0.7 percent loss for the Washington Area). January marked the fifteenth consecutive month in which the rate of local job creation was below the rate for all of the United States.

In February, the Washington Area continued to lose more jobs due to over-the-year suburban declines. An early recovery will depend on the strength of the traditional local employment expansion which occurs in the spring. Area state and local governments which have been one of the region's growth industries still have not implemented their much discussed spending and job retrenchment plans. The implementation of these public sector plans could negate any weak recovery in the private sector and prove to be a negative factor in any early recovery.

Profile of Job Growth Rates
February 1990 to February 1991

The Area	
Average 60 months	3.2%
High, August 1987	5.0%
Low, February 1991	-0.7%
1-year ago	1.4%
Last month	-0.3%
Current month	-0.7%
The Suburbs	
Average 60 months	3.8%
High, July 1987	6.2%
Low, February 1991	-1.0%
1-year ago	1.3%
Last month	-0.6%
Current month	-1.0%
The District	
Average 60 months	1.8%
High, Decemberr 1987	3.8%
Low, August 1990	-0.3%
1-year ago	1.7%
Last month	0.4%
Current month	-0.1%

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1989-1990.

District Announces Possible Job Opportunities in Kuwait

The Department of Employment Services, (DOES) advises residents interested in possible reconstruction job opportunities in Kuwait to bring resumes and register at the department's local employment service centers. Although no positions have yet been listed, employment opportunities may arise as American companies are awarded reconstruction contracts. Registered applicants will be immediately informed as job openings become available.

DOES has received hundreds of inquiries about possible jobs in the Persian Gulf, but at present there are none listed with the department's Job Bank or with the Interstate Job Bank. Employment opportunities from throughout the United States are listed with the Interstate Job Bank.

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Commerce encourage—but do not require—employers who may eventually have job opportunities in Kuwait to list those jobs with local employment services offices.

A Persian Gulf Reconstruction Center has been established in the District by the U.S. Department of Commerce to provide information to U.S. firms and assist them in securing contracts for reconstruction efforts. Employers interested in obtaining information on possible reconstruction contracts should call 202/377-5767 or 202/377-5737. The center does not offer job placement assistance, but suggests that interested workers register at the local employment services offices.

For further information regarding the department's assistance to residents seeking jobs in the Persian Gulf, call the Department of Employment Services at 202/639-2000.

Local employment services offices, where prospective workers can register, are at the following locations:

Anacostia Employment Services Center
1217 Good Hope Road, S.E.

Benning Employment Services Center
4017 Minnesota Avenue, S.E.

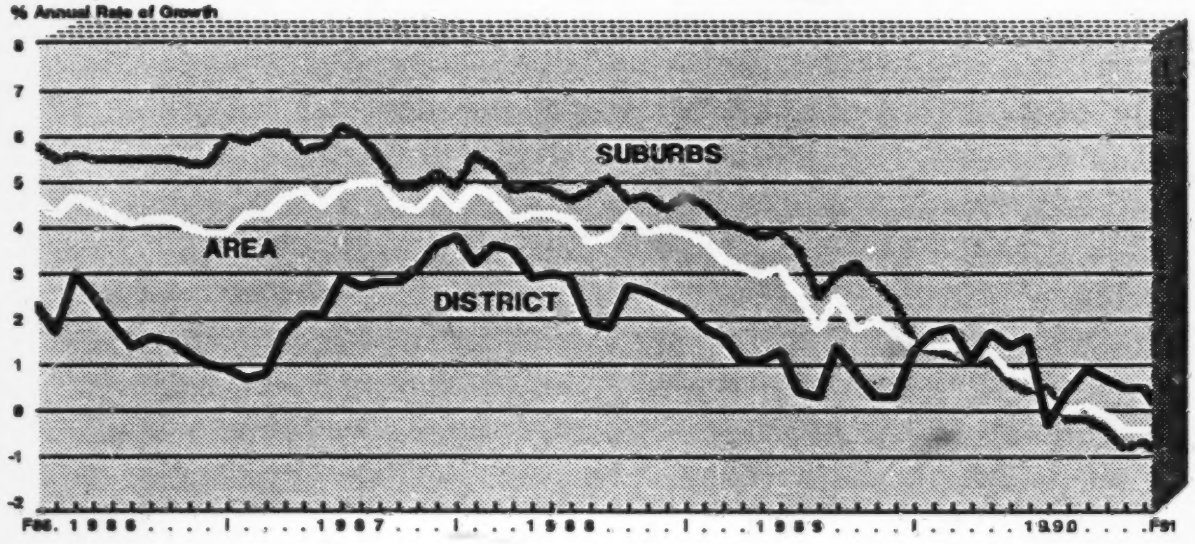
Latino Employment Services Center
1803 Belmont Road, N.W.

Northeast Employment Services Center
25 K Street, N.E.

Petworth Employment Services Center
4120 Kansas Avenue, N.W.

South Capitol Employment Services Center
4049 S. Capitol Street, S.W.

Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
February 1986 - February 1991



Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area

In January 1991, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 269 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's January jobless rate was up 0.4 percentage point to 4.4 percent. This was the thirty-third lowest jobless rate of the 269 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.8 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 4.4 percent was the third lowest of all the major metropolitan areas. This compares to the sixth lowest in December, the eighth lowest in November and the second lowest recorded in October.

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a 0.5 percentage point drop in their jobless rate, down from 6.9 percent in December to 6.4 percent in January. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 4.7 percent, up a significant 1.7 percentage points over the year. This makes the Baltimore area the thirty-third highest rate among the 44 selected areas tracked in the Area Labor Summary.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, recorded a 0.6 percentage point increase in its January jobless rate, up from 4.3 percent to 4.9 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.4 percent.

Of the 44 selected areas, jobless rates between 4.0 percent and 4.9 percent were reported in 10 other large metropolitan areas, the lowest being recorded in Milwaukee 4.1 percent. This was followed by Salt Lake City at 4.3 percent. San Francisco, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Phoenix along with the Washington Area each reported rates at 4.4 percent.

There were 13 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent. There also were 12 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent, and 7 large metropolitan areas with rates between 7.0 and 7.9 percent. Detroit at 8.7 percent was the only major metropolitan area with a January rate above 8 percent.

Of the 269 metropolitan areas for which January data are available, 127 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rates, while only 12 had decreases of that magnitude. A total of 55 areas had January 1991 rates of 8 percent or higher, while 59 had rates of 5 percent or below.

Continued on page 12

Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas

MSA	January 1991*
1. Milwaukee, WI	4.1
2. Salt Lake City, UT	4.3
3. Washington, D.C.	**4.4**
4. San Francisco, CA	4.4
5. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	4.4
6. Phoenix, AR	4.4
7. Seattle, WA	4.7
8. Nashville, TN	4.8
9. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	4.9
10. Portland, OR	4.9
11. Birmingham, AL	4.9
12. Hartford, CT	5.0
13. Cincinnati, OH	5.0
14. Columbus, OH	5.1
15. Denver, CO	5.2
16. New Orleans, LA	5.4
17. Oakland, CA	5.5
18. Memphis, TN	5.5
19. Montgomery, AL	5.5
20. Houston, TX	5.6
21. Indianapolis, IN	5.7
22. Dallas, TX	5.8
23. Atlanta, GA	5.8
24. Cleveland, OH	5.9
25. Philadelphia, PA	6.1
26. Gary, IN	6.1
27. Jackson, MS	6.1
28. Kansas City, MO	6.2
29. Pittsburgh, PA	6.3
30. Dayton, OH	6.3
31. San Diego, CA	6.3
32. Louisville, KY	6.4
33. Baltimore, MD	6.4
34. Los Angeles, CA	6.6
35. Chicago, IL	6.7
36. Miami, FL	6.8
37. Sacramento, CA	7.0
38. New York, NY	7.1
39. St. Louis, MO	7.1
40. Newark, NJ	7.2
41. Oklahoma City, OK	7.4
42. Boston, MA	7.5
43. Buffalo, NY	7.6
44. Detroit, MI	8.7

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

(Due to annual benchmarking, revised data for January 1990 is unavailable.)

Continued from page 11

States

When the District of Columbia (with a January unemployment rate of 7.6 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the eleventh highest jobless rate in the County. This was one notch above the position held in December.

Maryland's rate at 6.1 percent was unchanged from December. Maryland's rate has been growing increasingly over the last year. This month, Maryland ranked thirty-fifth, down from its twenty-third position held in December. A year ago, Maryland's rate was 4.3 percent.

On the other hand, Virginia's rate at 5.8 percent was up 0.9 percentage point from December. Virginia has one of the twelve lowest jobless rates and ranked fortieth among the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, Virginia's jobless rate was 4.4 percent.

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia reported over-the-year increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more. The largest increases took place in New England, with Massachusetts reporting the biggest rise (4.0 points), followed by Maine (3.5 points), Vermont (3.4 points) and New Hampshire (2.7 points).

Eight states had January 1991 unemployment rates of 8 percent or higher, compared with four a year earlier. West Virginia, at 10.6 percent, was the first state in more than a year to record a double-digit unemployment rate. Seven states had jobless rates of 8.0 percent or more—Massachusetts (9.0 percent), Mississippi (8.9 percent), Alaska (8.8 percent), Maine (8.7 percent), Michigan (8.6 percent), Rhode Island (8.4 percent) and Arkansas (8.2 percent). Only five states had jobless rates of 5 percent or below, compared with 17 a year earlier. Nebraska (2.7 percent) and Hawaii (2.8 percent) had the lowest rates in January 1991, as they did in January 1990.

Cities

In comparison with the 26 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a January preliminary rate of 7.6 percent) held the fourteenth position. This was one notch above the December position when it was thirteenth. In January, the average unemployment rate of the 27 cities was 7.7 percent, up from 6.6 percent in December. The January jobless rate was up 0.7 percentage point from the 7.0 percent posted in January 1990.

Only seven cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Salt Lake City at 4.5 percent, followed by San Francisco and Columbus both at 5.1.

Baltimore's rate at 9.1 percent was down 0.9 percentage point over the month. Baltimore held the twenty-third position among the 27 selected cities. Baltimore's January 1991 rate was 2.4 percentage points higher than the January 1990 rate of 6.7 percent.

For the first time in five months, Gary was a double digiter. The City's January rate increased from 8.7 percent in December to 10.5 percent in January, a jump of 1.8 percentage points. A year ago, Gary's rate was 10.2 percent.

This was the fifth consecutive month that Newark was in the double digit column. Newark held the twenty-seventh position for the second consecutive month. The January rate at 13.3 percent was 2.4 percentage point higher than in December and 3.3 percentage points higher than the 10.0 percent recorded in January 1990.

Detroit's jobless rate at 12.6 percent in January was up from the 10.8 percent posted in December. For the second consecutive month Detroit recorded the second highest among the twenty-seven selected cities. The 12.6 percent is 0.6 percent higher than the 12.0 percent recorded a year ago.

Of the 27 selected central cities, only seven reported decreases in joblessness and twenty reported increases in joblessness over the year. The largest over-the-year decrease was the 1.2 percentage points posted in New Orleans. There were five cities with substantial over-the-year increases in joblessness, with the largest being recorded in Boston 3.4 percent, Newark 3.3 percent, Buffalo 3.1 percent, the District of Columbia 2.7 percent and Baltimore 2.4 percent.

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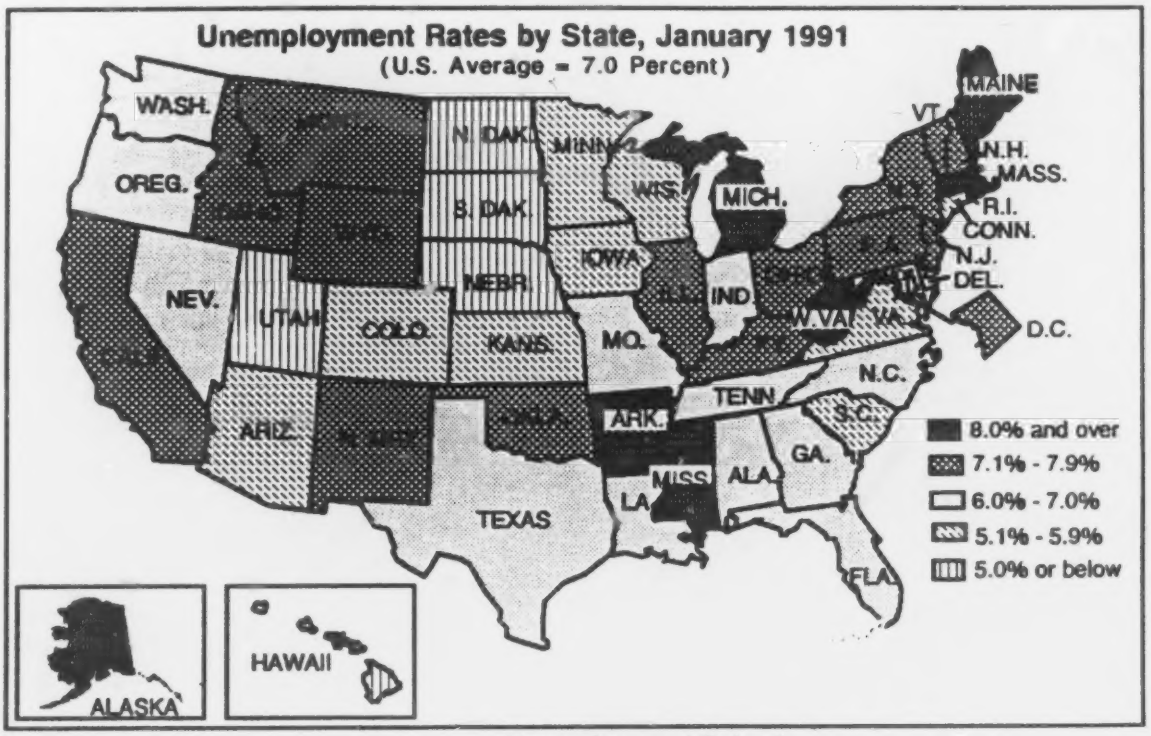


Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

	January	
	1991*	1990
1. Salt Lake City, UT	4.5	4.4
2. San Francisco, CA	5.1	4.0
3. Columbus, OH	5.1	5.9
4. Milwaukee, WI	5.2	5.6
5. Pittsburgh, PA	5.3	5.1
6. New Orleans, LA	5.3	6.5
7. Cincinnati, OH	5.9	6.3
8. Houston, TX	6.1	5.1
9. Birmingham, AL	6.1	6.9
10. Dallas, TX	6.7	5.2
11. Los Angeles, CA	7.3	6.6
12. Philadelphia, PA	7.4	5.8
13. New York, NY	7.4	7.0
14. District of Columbia	**7.6**	**4.9**
15. Atlanta, GA	7.6	6.8
16. Boston, MA	7.8	4.4
17. Chicago, IL	8.0	7.7
18. St. Louis, MO	8.0	8.9
19. Miami, FL	8.4	7.9
20. Hartford, CT	9.0	8.8
21. Cleveland, OH	9.0	9.1
22. Dayton, OH	9.1	9.9
23. Baltimore, MD	9.1	6.7
24. Gary, IN	10.5	10.2
25. Buffalo, NY	10.7	7.6
26. Detroit, MI	12.6	12.0
27. Newark, NJ	13.3	10.0

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

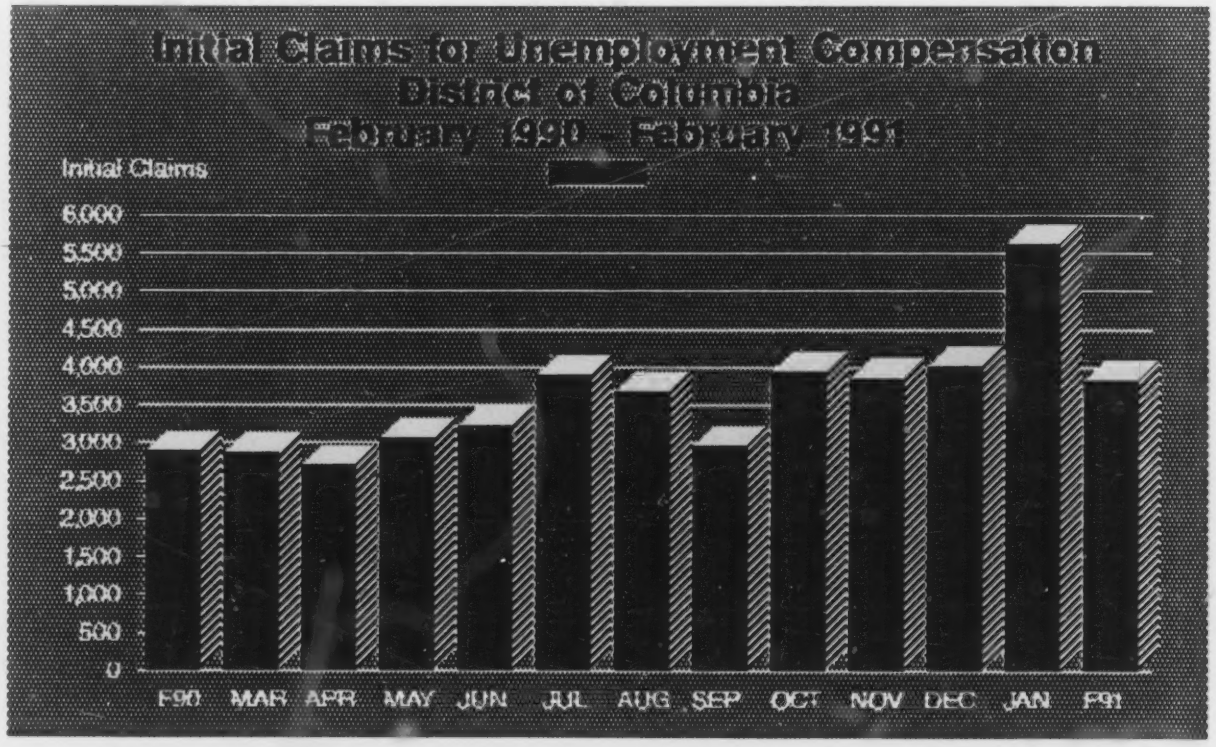
Unemployment Insurance Activities—February 1991

There were 3,830 claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits by persons who worked in the District of Columbia during February 1991—a 32 percent drop from January. The decline was expected, as January is a seasonally high month for claims filing purposes. In addition to the change-of-base period seasonal surge last month, the continuing economic slowdown with attendant layoffs and establishment closings contributed to the high level of January initial claims. Compared to February of last year, the claims level was 32 percent higher.

The number of weeks claimed and number of weeks compensated dropped 9 and 11 percent, respectively, from last month. This movement was also somewhat expected because of the seasonal drop in initial claims. Compared to February of last year, however, the weeks claimed climbed 50 percent and the weeks compensated rose 56 percent. This is a reflection of the decline in the local economy from last year to this. Mirroring the same situation is the 66 percent rise in benefit outlay from $6.5 to $10.8 million. However, the $10.8 million in February was 11 percent below January of this year.

The February 1991 average weekly benefit amount ($213.51) was virtually unchanged from the $213.22 registered last month. The amount this month was 6 percent above the same period last year—principally reflecting the wage-base increase in the benefit of current recipients. The maximum benefit amount and its related scale of benefits remain the same as in 1990.

The two-month (January-February) outlay in 1991 is $23.0 million. In 1990, the comparable amount was $14.7 million. The rise in outlay is principally a reflection of the higher level of the workload (weeks compensated) during the current period, and to a lesser degree, the slightly higher average weekly benefit amount. Weeks compensated in 1991 for the two-month period totalled 107,880 compared to 73,300 in 1990.



Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
February 1991

	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	% Change From Jan. 1991	% Change From Feb. 1990
State UI Program[a/]					
Initial Claims Taken	3,724	5,349	2,788	-30.4	+33.6
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	48,460	53,433	32,284	-9.3	+50.1
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	47,979	53,944	30,510	-11.1	+57.3
Total Benefits Paid	$10,195,478	$11,455,900	$6,077,136	-11.0	+67.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$212.50	$212.37	$199.19	+0.1	+6.7
Number of First Payments	2,954	3,418	1,672	-13.6	+76.7
Number of Final Payments	1,176	1,335	733	-11.9	+60.4
Total Beneficiaries	14,102	13,969	9,294	+1.0	+51.7
Federal Program[b/]					
Initial Claims Taken	26	233	73	-67.4	+4.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,456	2,686	1,734	-8.6	+41.6
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,609	2,768	1,847	+5.7	+41.3
Total Benefits Paid	$607,025	$636,787	$413,000	-4.7	+47.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$232.67	$230.05	$223.61	+1.1	+4.1
Number of First Payments	135	208	83	-35.1	+62.7
Number of Final Payments	59	82	42	-28.0	+40.5
Total Beneficiaries	713	711	528	+0.3	+35.0
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c/]					
Initial Claims Taken	28	27	33	+3.7	-15.2
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	304	386	217	-21.2	+40.1
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	242	336	177	-28.0	+36.7
Total Benefits Paid	$50,053	$70,936	$36,243	-29.4	+38.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$206.83	$211.12	$204.76	-2.0	+1.0
Number of First Payments	16	31	21	-48.4	-23.8
Number of Final Payments	14	21	18	-33.3	-22.2
Total Beneficiaries	76	96	60	-20.8	+26.7
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,828	5,609	2,894	-31.8	+32.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	51,220	56,505	34,235	-9.4	+49.6
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	50,830	57,048	32,534	-10.9	+56.2
Total Benefits Paid	$10,852,556	$12,163,623	$6,526,381	-10.8	+66.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$213.51	$213.22	$200.60	+0.1	+6.4
Number of First Payments	3,105	3,657	1,776	-15.1	+74.8
Number of Final Payments	1,249	1,438	793	-13.1	+59.5
Total Beneficiaries	14,891	14,776	9,882	+0.8	+50.7

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for February 1991 increased $13.42. Average Weekly Hours increased 1.4 hours and Average Hourly Earnings decreased 12 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products had a longer scheduled workweek which caused weekly hours to increase 1.7 hours. Electric Machinery Equipment and Supplies reflects overtime worked at premium pay. Weekly earnings rose $22.97, weekly hours rose 1.2 hours as hourly earnings dropped slightly by 4 cents. Other Durable Goods showed more business in conjunction with overtime, as weekly earnings increased $7.17, weekly hours went up 1.6 hours and hourly earnings showed a drop of 31 cents.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products recorded overtime causing weekly earnings to increase $7.98, as hourly earnings increased 47 cents. Other Non-Durable Goods' longer scheduled workweek resulted in weekly hours rising considerably by 3.8 hours.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
February 1991

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
Total Manufacturing	497.92	484.50	479.76	38.9	37.5	39.1	12.80	12.92	12.27
Durable Goods	524.41	510.45	500.07	42.6	41.0	42.2	12.31	12.45	11.85
Stone Clay & Glass Products	499.73	481.16	524.64	42.1	40.4	45.7	11.87	11.91	11.48
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	502.49	479.52	445.46	41.7	40.5	41.4	12.05	11.84	10.76
Other Durable Goods	537.50	530.33	510.41	43.0	41.4	41.7	12.50	12.81	12.24
Non-Durable Goods	477.00	464.58	462.46	36.0	34.8	36.5	13.25	13.35	12.67
Food & Kindred Products	476.14	468.16	423.15	40.8	41.8	40.3	11.67	11.20	10.50
Printing & Publishing	506.27	496.81	486.82	34.3	33.5	35.2	14.76	14.83	13.83
Other Non-Durable Goods	380.56	351.56	384.16	39.6	35.8	40.1	9.61	9.82	9.58

Total Production Workers	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990
	37,900	37,800	39,700

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Government of the District of Columbia
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